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Carnahan Led Effort to Include Investments in Innovation, Infrastructure In Energy-Water Funding Bill Passed Today

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Russ Carnahan today won funding for projects that will help spur economic growth and create new jobs, provide critically-needed flood protections for people throughout the region, and invest in innovative clean-energy technology. The funding was passed by Congress today as part of the FY 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which President Obama is expected to sign into law.

"These are smart investments that will create jobs and improve our infrastructure, while making key investments in innovative technologies that will help make the United States a leader in the new, clean-energy economy of the future," Carnahan said.

As part of the funding bill, Carnahan won \$817,000 for flood-protection projects, including \$535,000 for flood wall improvements in St. Louis, \$242,000 for the flood wall in Ste. Genevieve, and \$40,000 for repairs and flood protection along the River Des Peres. In addition, Carnahan led a successful effort with other Mid-Western lawmakers to win millions of dollars to rehabilitate habitats and improve barge traffic flow along the Upper Mississippi River.

"Those of us who live in states along the Mississippi River know too well the price to be paid for neglecting water infrastructure," said Carnahan, who serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well as the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. **"These investments will help protect our river communities from flooding, will boost river commerce by reducing barge traffic delays, and will provide a healthier Mississippi for future generations."**

Carnahan Leads Push For "Energy Innovation Hubs"

Carnahan also played a pivotal role in the creation of "Energy Innovation Hubs," research centers envisioned by Energy Secretary Steven Chu that would develop innovative technologies to help move the U.S. toward a clean and independent energy economy. Last week, Carnahan, along with Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) sent a letter signed by 20 members of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC) to members of the House and Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Conferees, calling for sufficient funding "to provide the Department of Energy with the tools needed to develop more energy efficient buildings, and the fuel technologies of the twenty-first century."

"In 1947, AT&T Bell Laboratories fully developed the transistor. In the 1950s, Lincoln Lab at MIT further developed the radar. Now, these Energy Innovation Hubs will help produce the next breakthroughs required to lead the United States into the new clean-energy economy, tapping into the great tradition of American innovation to create the clean-energy jobs of tomorrow," said Carnahan.

Through his work on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee, the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition and the High Performance Building Caucus, which he co-founded, Congressman Carnahan has focused on rebuilding our nation's crumbling infrastructure, targeting funding towards projects that will result in job growth and economic stimulus, and investing in innovative technologies that will build the clean-energy economy of the future.

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